FINANCIAL POSITION

The essential facts regarding the assets and indebtedness of the State, bonded and otherwise, are set out in the statement attached to the printed budget. It will be clear from the statement that the financial position of the State remains as satisfactory and intrinsically sound as when the budget for the current year was presented to the House.

BUDGET ESTIMATE FOR 1117 M. E.

The budget for the coming year, it must be stated at the outset, is not spectacular, in any sense of the word. Its essential characteristic, if Honourable Members will allow me to say so, is that it is based on principles of conservative finance. Economy in public expenditure without doing violence to the accepted policy of liberality in the provision for utility services has been our aim. It will be noticed from the budget estimate that we are expecting by way of receipts Rs. 113·49 lakhs and that the expenditure is expected to amount to Rs. 108·96 lakhs, leaving a surplus of Rs. 4·53 lakhs. Both in respect of receipts and disbursements, a considerable falling off will be noticed as compared with the revised estimate figures for 1116.

CYCLONE RELIEF MEASURES

The State has just passed through a disaster of the first magnitude. I refer to the terrible cyclone which swept through the State for about twelve hours on 26-27th May, 1941. In violence it stands unparalleled in the history of this State; and although, thanks to an all-merciful Providence, few lives were lost, the loss to property, especially to trees and plantations of various kinds, has been enormous.

It will, I think, be readily acknowledged that prompt measures were taken by His Highness's Government to relieve the distress caused by the cyclone. Amounts to the extent of a lakh and fifty thousand rupees have been set apart for distribution in the shape of free grants for the reconstruction of houses and for the distribution of rice among those who have been rendered homeless. A further sum of two lakhs of rupees has been sanctioned for loans, interest-free and otherwise, to those who are in immediate need of cash to repair the damages to their property. Laws have been passed giving time to debtors for payment of their obligations and fixing an easy commutation rate for paddy where the dues are payable in kind. Coercive steps of every kind have been ordered to be kept in abeyance for a

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